

W. C. T. U. NOTES.

JUST DO YOUR BEST.
BY JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.



The signs is bad when folks commence
A-barkin' fault with Providence,
And balkin' cause the earth
don't shake
At every prancing step the take.
No man is great till he can see
How less than little he would be
If stripped to self, and stark and bare,
He hung his sign out anywhere.
My doctern is to lay aside
Contentions, and be satisfied;
Jest do your best, and praise or blame
That follows thee counts jest the same.
I've allus noticed great success
Is mixed with trouble, more or less,
And it's the man who does the best
That gets more kicks than all the rest.

PROHIBITION VS. LICENSE.

To the Editor of the Pioneer:

Prohibition is objected to:
1. Because it interferes with personal liberty. But so do the laws prohibiting fast driving on certain streets, the building of wooden houses in cities, the selling of liquor on Sunday or after certain hours, etc.

2. Because it tries to make men moral by law. But only so far as other laws do in prohibiting theft, perjury, licentiousness, etc.

3. Because it tends to make men hypocrites and deceitful. But in the same way do the laws prohibiting counterfeiting, smuggling, forgery, etc.

4. Because it does not prohibit, but neither do the laws against murder, arson, robbery, etc.

5. Because it is a sumptuary law. But no more so than the laws prohibiting the sale of diseased meat, the selling liquor to minors and drunkards, the wearing of apparel of the other sex, etc. The object in prohibiting the liquor traffic is the same as that in prohibiting the other offences, namely, protection of individual rights and the promotion of the general welfare.

License is urged instead of prohibition:

1. Because there is much drinking in spite of prohibition. But there is considerable crime of other kinds in spite of the law prohibiting it.

2. Because it would increase the revenue. But so would a license to commit other crimes.

3. Because it makes the traffic more respectable. But license would also make other crimes more respectable. Yet, what a way of doing business to make respectable what ought to be more detestable, and make the road to misery and ruin attractive instead of repulsive!

4. Because it would (if high) lessen the number of saloons and the amount of liquor consumed. But if criminals had to pay a license fee (high) it would lessen the number of criminals and amount of crime.

If these reasons for licensing the liquor beverage traffic are not enough to justify licensing other crimes are they enough to justify licensing that traffic? The revenue from license (high) is a power against prohibition, and the corrupting effect of the license principle upon the people and its help to the traffic makes any license a hindrance to getting prohibition. The charge that prohibition cannot be obtained and enforced implies that there is not and cannot be developed in the nation enough patriotism, intelligence, conscience and energy to do what is for its own good and what duty requires—an insinuation that our Government is a failure, through the inability or shiftlessness of the people to enact and enforce good and proper laws necessary for their safety and well-being. That license lessens the number of saloons is very doubtful, and that it does not lessen drinking seems thoroughly established by testimony and statistics. The friends of prohibition do not oppose license because it does not suppress all the saloons at once, because it does not give them a whole loaf, but because it helps to perpetuate the traffic, and to license is to share in the guilt of the traffic. Prohibitionists will work for a measure reducing the number of saloons and the amount of liquor drunk, if it does not strengthen or consent to those remaining.

THOMAS J. POWELL,
Naples, N. Y.

I SEE IT.

In a certain city a laboring man leaving a saloon saw a costly carriage and a pair standing in front, occupied by two ladies elegantly attired, conversing with the proprietor. As it rolled away he said to the dealer: "Whose establishment is that?" "It's mine," said the dealer, complacently; "it cost \$5,000; my wife and daughter cannot do without it." The mechanic bowed his head a moment in deep thought and looked sad; with the energy of a man suddenly aroused by some startling flash, he said: "I see it! I see it!" "See what?" queried the dealer. "See where for years my wages have gone. I helped pay for that carriage, for those horses and gold mounted harness, for the silks and laces and jewelry for your family. The money I earned that I should have given my wife and children, I have spent at your bar. My wages and those of others like me have supported you and your family in luxury. Hereafter my wife and children shall have the benefit of my wages, and, by the help of God, I will never spend another dime for drink. I see the mistake and cure for it."

Who else will "see it" and work for themselves, their loved ones, instead of toiling to buy silks for rum-sellers' wives and carriages for rum-sellers' families.

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